WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:

a first node, said first node including switching intelligence;

a plurality of second nodes, each second node of said plurality of second nodes including broadband switching fabric;

an interworking entity, said interworking entity operatively connectable to said first node and said plurality of second nodes, said interworking entity adapted to receive data in a first format from said first node, map the received data into a second format interpretable by said plurality of second nodes, and send the mapped data to at least one second node of said plurality of second nodes; and

wherein said interworking entity thereby enables said plurality of second nodes to be controlled, at least partially, by the switching intelligence of said first node.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said first node is comprised of a telecommunications node, said telecommunications node including narrowband switching fabric.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein said interworking entity comprises a third node between said first node and said plurality of second nodes.

4. The system according to claim 1, wherein said interworking entity is at least one of part of and co-located with a second node of said plurality of second nodes.

5. The system according to claim 1, wherein said interworking entity is further adapted to emulate an interface for a synchronous transfer mode (STM)-based node with respect to said first node.

6. The system according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of second nodes comprise at least part of a broadband network.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein each second node of said plurality of second nodes is adapted to communicate signaling information and data information over the broadband network and to convert broadband information into another media type.

8. The system according to claim 6, wherein the mapped data comprises instructions for the at least one second node to establish a communication path through at least a portion of the broadband network.

9. The system according to claim 1, wherein the received data comprises at least one first network address, and the mapped data comprises at least one second network address.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein the at least one first network address comprises at least one trunk connection.

11. The system according to claim 9, wherein the at least one second network address comprises at least one asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) identifier.

12. An arrangement for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:

a first node, said first node including switching intelligence;

a second node, said second node including broadband switching fabric; and

an interworking entity, said interworking entity operatively connectable to said first node and said second node, said interworking entity adapted to receive data in a first format from said first node, map the received data into a second format interpretable by said second node, and send the mapped data to said second node.

13. The arrangement according to claim 12, wherein the first format comprises a circuit-switched format, and the second format comprises a packet-switched format.

14. A system for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:

a first node, said first node including call control functionality and circuit-switched connection control functionality;

a plurality of second nodes, each second node of said plurality of second nodes including packet-switched connection control functionality;

an interworking entity, said interworking entity operatively connected to said first node and to said plurality of second nodes, said interworking entity adapted (i) to receive routing data in a circuit-switched format from said first node, (ii) to map the received data into a packet-switched format that is implementable by said plurality of second nodes, and (iii) to send the mapped data to at least one second node of said plurality of second nodes.

15. The system according to claim 14, wherein the circuit-switched format comprises addresses corresponding to switch devices.

16. The system according to claim 14, wherein the packet-switched format comprises addresses corresponding to an H.248 protocol.

17. The system according to claim 14, wherein said first node includes a synchronous transfer mode (STM) switch, and the at least one second node of said plurality of second nodes includes an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch.

18. The system according to claim 14, further comprising:

a plurality of third nodes, each third node of said plurality of third nodes connected to the at least one second node of said plurality of second nodes; and

wherein each third node of said plurality of third nodes is configured to handle a different telecommunications protocol.

19. The system according to claim 18, wherein the at least one second node is adapted to convert media of one type to media of another type, the another type corresponding to a different telecommunications protocol that is associated with at least one third node of said plurality of third nodes.

20. The system according to claim 14, wherein at least one second node of said plurality of second nodes is adapted to add a communication path therethrough responsive to the mapped data.

21. The system according to claim 14, wherein at least one second node and another node of said plurality of second nodes are adapted to add a communication path therebetween responsive to the mapped data.

22. A method for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising the steps of:

sending a first communication path instruction from a first node to a second node;

mapping the first communication path instruction to a second communication path instruction at the second node;

sending the second communication path instruction from the second node to at least one third node; and

establishing a communication path responsive to the second communication path instruction.

23. The method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of:

performing a destination number analysis to derive the first communication path instruction at the first node.

24. The method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of:

receiving the second communication path instruction at the second node.

25. The method according to claim 22, wherein said step of establishing a communication path responsive to the second communication path instruction comprises the step of establishing the communication path in a broadband network.

26. The method according to claim 22, wherein the first communication path instruction pertains to a circuit-based address space, and the second communication path instruction pertains to a packet-based address space.

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